Probe into landing of Plane at Ahmedabad

*729. SHRI RAMACHANDRAIAH RUMANDLA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have probed the antecedents of the owners of plane landed for fuel at Ahmedabad Airport on 17th March, 1999;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) the action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) An American registered aircraft was cleared by Director General of Civil Aviation for flight Bangkok-Calcutta-Karachi on 16th March, 1999. The operator of the aircraft was Cooper Surveys, a company based in U.K. After take-off from Calcutta the aircraft reported fuel shortage due to strong head winds and requested for landing at Ahmedabad. After landing at Ahmedabad it was detected that some portion of a photographic camera was fitted to the aircraft. The equipment on board was examined by the concerned agencies and found non-operational. Nothing adverse against the two foreigners in the aircraft came to the notice of the Government. Therefore, the aircraft was permitted to take-off after obtaining clearance from the concerned agencies from security angle.

Atrocities against Dalits

†*730. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA. Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cases of atrocities against the downtrodden have increased throughout the country;

(b) if so, the details of incidents of atrocities against the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes during the last three years, State-wise year-wise; and

(c) the action being taken by Government to check these incidents of atrocities?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) According to the National Crime Records Bureau, the incidence of crimes

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

committed against the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes during the last three years was as under:—

Year	Incidence of Crime Against	
	SCs	STs
1997	27,944	4,644
1998	25,638	4,276
1999*	25,191	4,497

*(Provisional)

State-wise details in this regard are enclosed in the Annexure [*See* Appendix 189, Annexure No. 129.]

(c) 'Public Order' and 'Police' are State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India and, as such, registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crimes is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, the Government of India has been advising the State Governments, from time to time, to give more focussed attention to improving the administration of criminal justice system and take such measures as are necessary for the prevention of crimes against the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other vulnerable sections of the society.

Foreign postings/assignments

*731. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Forum of SC/ST MPs in the representations submitted to the Prime Minister on 17th December, 1996, 1st September, 1997 and 23rd July, 1998, have demanded posting of persons from SCs and STs category in foreign assignments under UNO, its affiliated Organizations in India and abroad; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon furnishing the total number of persons from the Ministry of Rural Development send abroad on foreign postings/ assignments during the last five years and number of persons belonging to SCs and STs among them and their percentage as compared to total of such assignments?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA): (a) Three Memoranda were submitted to the Prime Minister on 17.12.96, 1.9.97 and 23.7.98 by the Parliamentary Forum for SC and ST.